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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/674,975	11/07/2000	David B. Agus	MSKP039	8051

21121 7590 03/25/2003
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EXAMINER

UNGAR, SUSAN NMN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1642

DATE MAILED: 03/25/2003

10

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/674,975

Applicant(s)

Agus et al

Examiner

Ungar

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE one MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jan 30, 2003
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 9-13, 16, 17, and 21-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) 12, 13, 16, 17, and 21-24 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claims 9-11 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

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1. The Election filed January 30, 2003 (Paper No. 9) in response to the Office Action of January 13, 2003 (Paper No.8) is acknowledged and has been entered. Claims 1-8, 14-15, 18-20 have been canceled, claims 13 and 16 have been amended and new claims 21-24 have been added, thus, claims 9-13, 16-17, 21-24 are pending in the application. Claims 12-13, 16-17, 21-24 have been withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner under 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to non-elected inventions. Claims 9-11 are currently under prosecution.

2. Applicant's election with traverse of Group II, claims 9-11 in Paper No 9 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that upon amendment of the claims, the claims now pending have unity of invention and there is nothing in Examiner's comment about inherency which relates to this inventive concept. The argument has been considered but has not been found persuasive. The instant application is a national stage application of an international application and the restriction requirement was made on the claims as filed under PCT Rule 13. As originally filed, the claims did not relate to a single inventive concept because they lacked the same or corresponding special technical feature and did not define a contribution over the prior art for the reasons of record. In particular, as previously set forth, 37 CFR 1.475(d) specifically states that if there is no special technical feature, if multiple products, processes of manufacture or uses are claimed, the first invention of the category first mentioned in the claims of the application will be considered the main invention and after that, all other products and methods are broken out as separate groups. The amended claims are not drawn to the first invention of the category first mentioned in the claims of the application and are therefore not relevant to the propriety of the restriction

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requirement. Applicant does not argue that the restriction requirement as imposed is improper. For the reasons set forth above, the restriction requirement is deemed to be proper and is therefore made FINAL.

3. Upon review and reconsideration it is found that restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

The claims of the instant application have been determined to include linking claims. The restriction requirement among the linked inventions is subject to the nonallowance of the linking claim(s), claims 9. Upon the allowance of the linking claim(s), the restriction requirement as to the linked inventions shall be withdrawn and any claim(s) depending from or otherwise including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim(s) will be entitled to examination in the instant application. Applicant(s) are advised that if any such claim(s) depending from or including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim(s) is/are presented in a continuation or divisional application, the claims of the continuation or divisional application may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Where a restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. *In re Ziegler*, 44 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

Group I. Claims 9-11 are drawn to a method of active vaccination against B cells expressing CD 20 wherein the vaccine composition comprises a peptide derived from human CD20, SEQ ID NO:1 classified in Class 514, subclass 2+.

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Group II. Claims 9-11 are drawn to a method of active vaccination against B cells expressing CD 20 wherein the vaccine composition comprises a peptide derived from murine CD20, SEQ ID NO:2 classified in Class 514, subclass 2+.

3. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions III-VII are materially distinct methods which differ at least in objectives, method steps, reagents and/or dosages and/or schedules used, response variables, and criteria for success.

4. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification and/or recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

5. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a diligently-filed petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(h).

6. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103, the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was

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not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of potential 35 U.S.C. § 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

7. Applicant is advised that the response to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed.

8. In an effort to enhance communication with our customers and reduce processing time, Group 1640 is running a Fax Response Pilot for Written Restriction Requirements. A dedicated Fax machine is in place to receive your responses. The Fax number is 703-308-4315. We encourage your participation in this Pilot program. If you have any questions or suggestions please contact Anthony Caputa, Ph.D., Supervisory Patent Examiner at 703-308-3995. Thank you in advance for allowing us to enhance our customer service. Please limit the use of this dedicated Fax number to responses to Written Restrictions.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susan Ungar, PhD whose telephone number is (703) 305-2181. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30am to 4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Caputa, can be reached at (703) 308-3995. The fax phone number for this Art Unit is (703) 308-4242.


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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Effective, February 7, 1998, the Group and/or Art Unit location of your application in the PTO has changed. To aid in correlating any papers for this application, all further correspondence regarding this application should be directed to Group Art Unit 1642.


Susan Ungar
Primary Patent Examiner
March 19, 2003